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Turner's spies out in the cold

CIA director Stansfield Turner has given a welcome example of his determination not to tolerate unauthorized activities by members of the agency. He has "accepted the resignations of" — in effect, fired — two employees who "were performing services which were not authorized by the CIA on behalf of friends who happen to be former CIA officers."

It seems clear that, under Admiral Turner, there will be no continuation of any such conditions as those alleged to him in a letter from a 12-year CIA man who resigned earlier this month. The latter wrote that some CIA officers exploited their power "under the cover of clandestinity . . . so that no matter how drunken, inept or corrupt their management of a station might be they are protected, promoted and reassigned."

The CIA has had no public reaction to the letter from former chief of station John R. Stockwell. But it is incumbent on the director to expose whether there is any truth to the letter's charges, which include "living a luxurious life at the taxpayer's expense," fabrications of operations for reporting purposes, and purging files to keep incriminating information from Senate investigators.

The recent firings give hope that Admiral Turner will enhance the effectiveness of the agency by rooting out any remaining abuses. There was a promising step in the very fact that the public was allowed to know of the action even though names were not given and the employees' lapses not specified. Reportedly they were involved in aiding a seller of explosives overseas.

Director Turner's statement on the subject rightly demanded "full adherence to all rules and regulations." Congress has not yet fol-

lowed its investigations of U.S. intelligence activities with the promised legislation. It ought to provide the basis for strengthened rules, regulations, and penalties to deter violations. With an Admiral at the helm dedicated to having the rules obeyed, a new era of confidence in the CIA may be beginning.